

Appl. No. 10/810,456

Amdt. Dated October 11, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed August 11, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-4, and 6-39 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 22, 26, and 31 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 15, 17, 22, 23, 26, 29, 31, and 32 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled and claim 6 has been amended to rely on claim 1 instead of cancelled claim 5. Claims 13, 14, and 34-39 have been withdrawn. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,407,745 ("Jacobson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 relates to a joint for connecting a duct to a port and recites, *inter alia*, an annular seat collar and a plurality of tabs spaced around an outer annular surface of the annular seat collar. Jacobson teaches a rotary joint where a rotary end member F includes a cap 23 that is held adjacent to a stationary end member G by two housing members A and B. However, nowhere does Jacobson mention or suggest including a plurality of tabs spaced around an outer annular surface of the annular seat collar. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection.

Claims 2 and 7-12 depend from claim 1 and therefore rely on the arguments presented above.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 18-22, 24-28, 30, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jacobson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,799,586 ("Caras"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 1 (from which claims 3 and 4 depend) and claims 15, 22, and 31 all recite, *inter alia*, a plurality of tabs spaced around an outer annular surface of the annular seat collar. Additionally, claim 26 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, providing a plurality of tabs on the outer circumferential surface of the annular seat collar. As mentioned above, Jacobson does not mention or suggest including a plurality of tabs spaced around an outer annular surface of the annular seat collar.

Moreover, Caras does not make up for the deficiencies of Jacobson. Caras teaches a duct joint that includes inner and outer sealing lips that define a slanted gas pocket that is mounted between joint parts which rotate and angulate with respect to each other. However, nowhere does Caras disclose a plurality of tabs spaced around an outer annular surface of the annular seat collar. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, claims 16 and 18-21 depend from claim 15, claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 22, claims 27, 28, and 30 depend from claim 26, and claim 33 depends from claim 31. Therefore, these claims rely on the arguments presented above.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 16, 22, 26, and 31 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

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If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

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